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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4532  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0032  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS ATHENS 000533

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E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [KPAO](#) [PTER](#) [GR](#)  
SUBJECT: GREECE: RESPONSE TO AL-ASKARIYA SHRINE BOMBING

REF: STATE 28802

ENTIRE TEXT IS UNCLASSIFIED.

Per reftel, Embassy poloffs raised the Al-Askariya bombing with MFA officials on February 23 and provided text of USG statements to MFA Spokesman George Koumoutsakos, who later released the following statement on behalf of the Greek Government:

BEGIN TEXT:

We unequivocally condemn the attacks carried out yesterday on the Holy Shrine of Samarra and other religious sites in Iraq. Given the historic, cultural and religious significance of the shrine, this attack is a crime against global cultural heritage.

Such criminal acts result in the flaring up of ethnic tensions and undermine the prospects for peace and stability in the country and the region.

We reiterate our support for the forming of a fully representational government that will work to build a peaceful, prosperous and united Iraq.

END TEXT.  
Ries